

MD SB 643 2025
Public Utilities –
Energy Generation
Hearing – March 6, 2025
Written Comments of Patti Hankins

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Chairman Wilson and Members of the Committee

Written Testimony SB 643

March 6, 2025

Maryland needs to become energy independent from other states for its electricity generation. My comments outline the current state of Maryland's dependency on imported electricity.

PJM's regional expansion of high voltage transmission projects does not take into consideration the costs to impacted landowners and communities tasked with hosting these extension cords. Taxpayers are also impacted when agricultural preservation easements are targeted which is often the case. It is easy to site transmission projects on rural land because it is the least expensive option. Maryland elected officials are pretending that imported electricity is from nuclear only resources, which is not factual.

Projects 1, 2 and 3 outlined below will utilize electricity from Pennsylvania that comes from the substations at Bottom Atomic Plant. The electricity is generated from both nuclear resources and fossil fuel resources, specifically from the Calphine York Energy Center and the York Energy Center II which are natural gas fueled. Other PA resources from the north in the flow from these substations is also from fossil fuel generation.

In total there are **4 high voltage projects that PJM approved in 2023 that will significantly increase the percentage of imported electricity into Maryland**. The details are shown in the following pages:

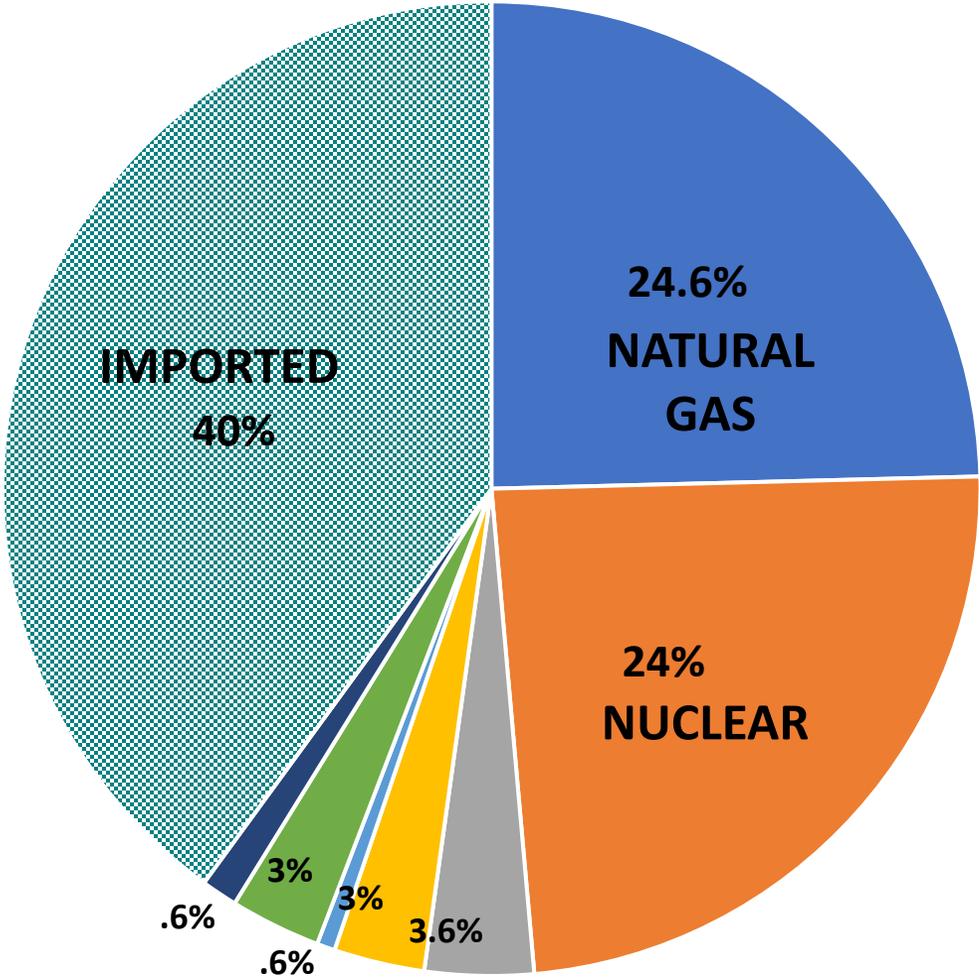
1. Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project
2. PSEG Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project
3. BGE/PEPCO Tri-County Transmission Project
4. First Energy Hunterstown to Carroll Upgrade Project

In addition, the PJM Board of Managers approved **Project #5** on February 26, 2025, the 2024 Window 1 project which will bring extra high voltage 765kV transmission to Frederick County via a 261-mile extension cord from West Virginia coal-fired plants.

Will Maryland imports be 85%, 90% or higher when all of the above projects are completed between 2027-2030? At what cost to Maryland ratepayers? At what cost to Maryland landowners? The approximate costs of all 5 of these projects is \$11.6 BILLION and the generation will be from fossil-fuel plants in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Building Maryland 24/7 available natural gas generators will provide stability to electricity consumer rates.

Maryland Electricity Generation Sources 2025

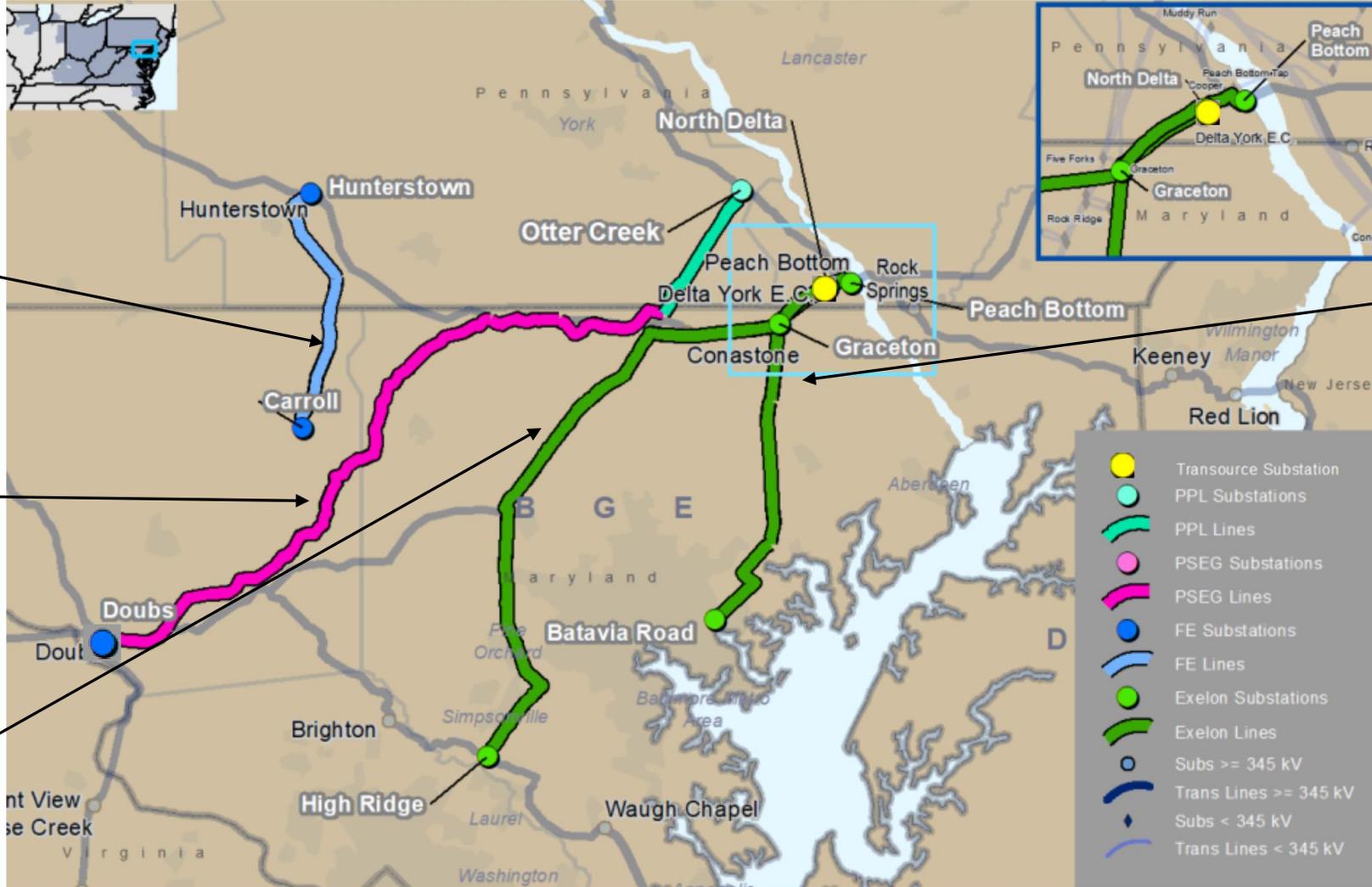
MD Electric Generation	Percentage
Natural gas	24.6
Nuclear	24
Solar	3.6
Coal	3
Onshore Wind	0.6
Hydro	3
Biomass	0.6
Imported	40



■ Natural gas ■ Nuclear ■ Solar ■ Coal ■ Onshore Wind ■ Hydro ■ Biomass ■ Imported



PJM Approved Projects to **IMPORT MORE** Electricity into Maryland Approved in 2023



First Energy upgrade 115/138kV to double circuit 230kV transmission lines on existing ROW

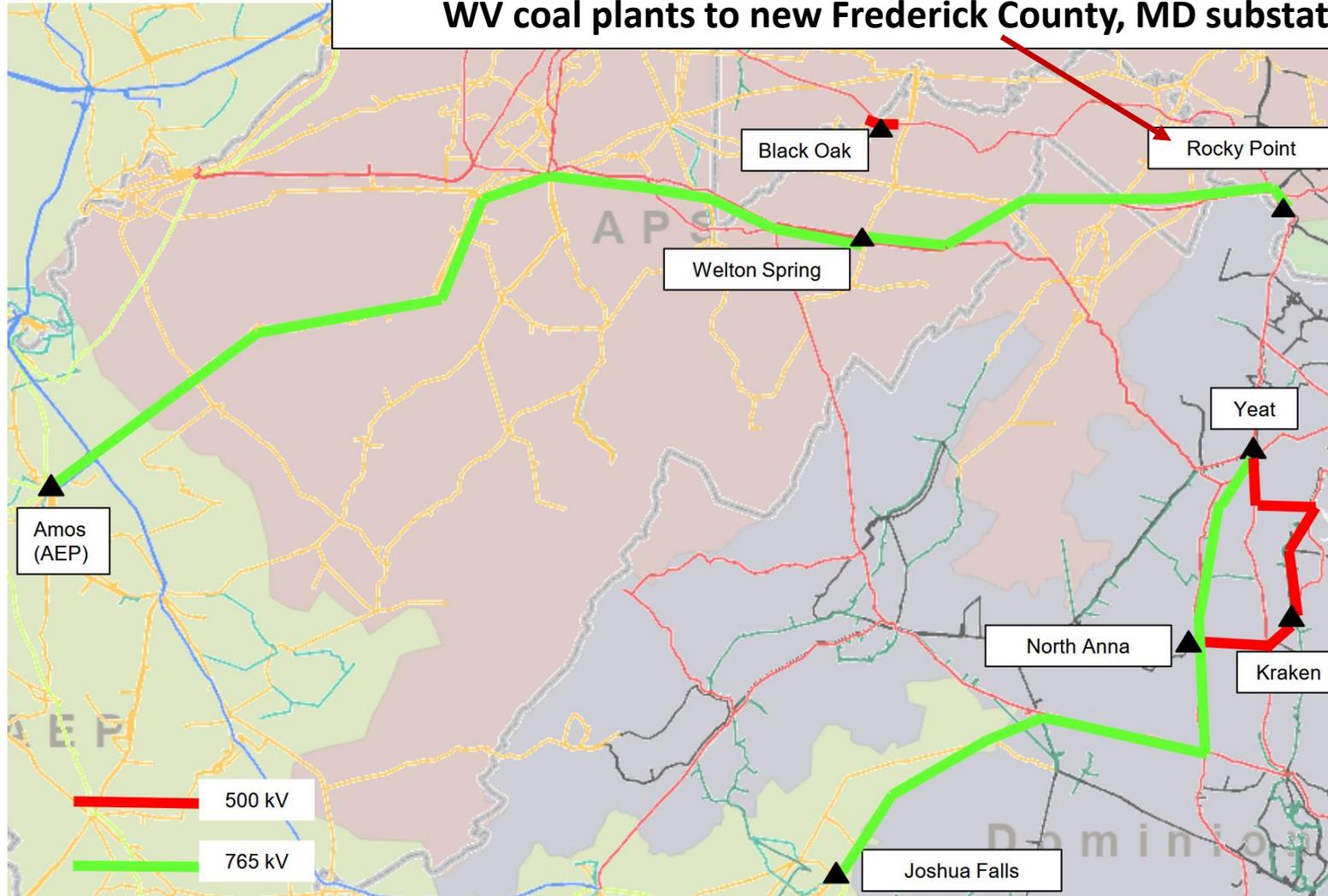
PSEG MPRP 70-mile greenfield 500kV transmission line

BGE/PEPCO Tri-County Transmission Upgrade Project new 500kV transmission line on existing ROW and rebuild of existing 500kV between Peach Bottom and Conastone

BGE/PECO Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project 2 new substations, new 500kV line from PA to Graceton substation, new double circuit 230kV transmission lines with bundled conductors on existing ROW approved 7-2023

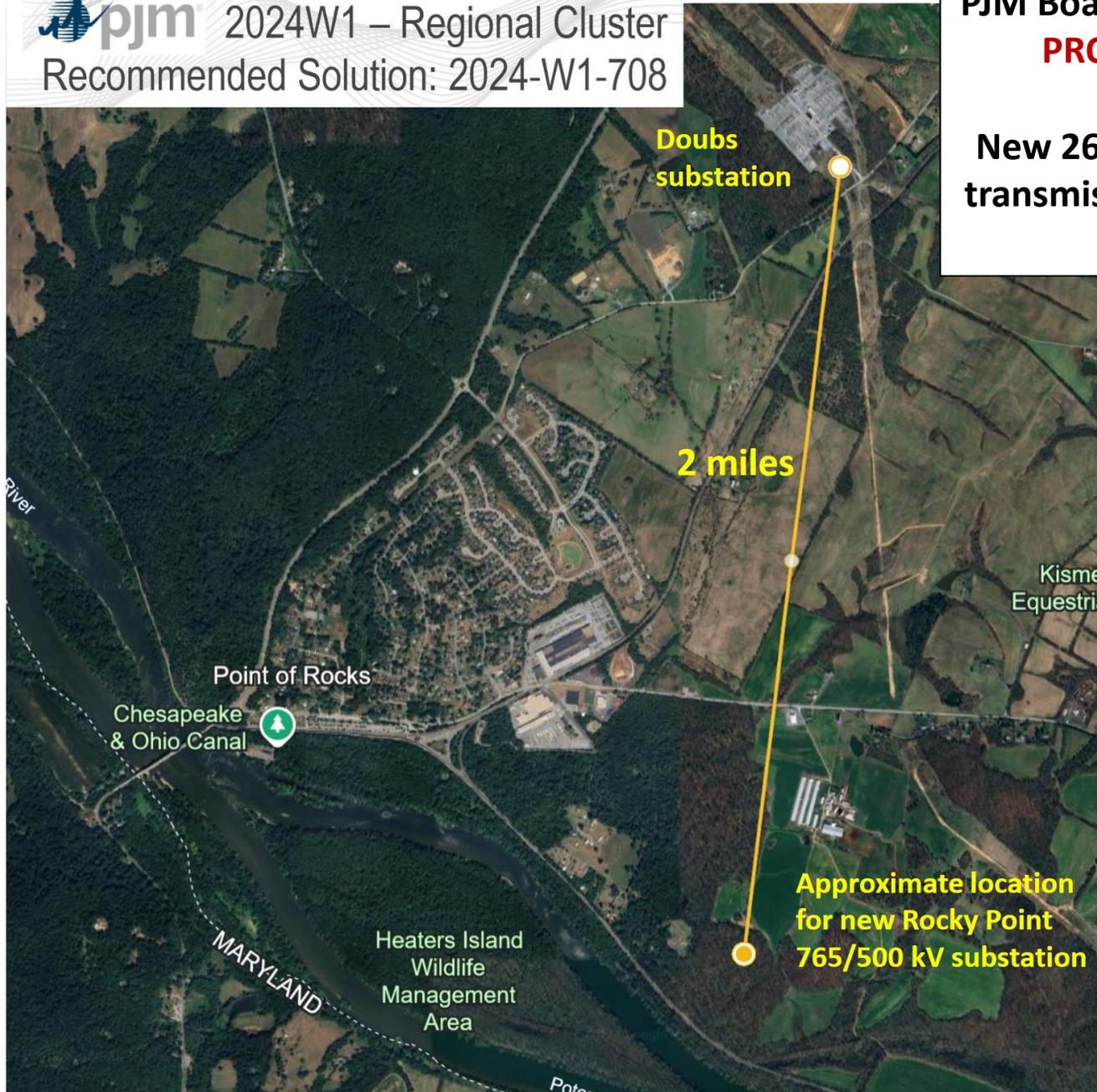
NOTE: This map is only intended to illustrate the general electrical connectivity of the projects, and should not be relied upon for exact geographical substation locations or line routes.

PJM Board of Managers Approved on February 26, 2025
PROJECT TO IMPORT MORE ELECTRICITY INTO MARYLAND
New 261-mile greenfield **EXTRA HIGH VOLTAGE 765kV transmission line from WV coal plants to new Frederick County, MD substation Rocky Point.**



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PROJECT TO IMPORT MORE ELECTRICITY INTO
MARYLAND

New 261-mile greenfield EXTRA HIGH VOLTAGE 765kV
transmission line from WV coal plants to new Frederick
County, MD substation Rocky Point.



- PJM states that this project supports future load growth in Eastern PJM
- Expansion of 765kV into Eastern PM beyond Frederick County is possible
- 765kV is equal to 3 – 500kV transmission lines
- 765kV requires a 200' ROW
- Agricultural activities are limited under 765kV transmission towers

EXTRA HIGH VOLTAGE – EHV 765kV TRANSMISSION TOWERS

- A single-circuit 765-kV line can carry as much power as three single-circuit 500-kV lines
- 765-kV projects use a typical right-of-way width of 200 feet.
- Typical 765-kV lines have a tower height of approximately 130-140 feet
- Highest voltage available in the United States



765kV Guyed-V Lattice tower

Figure 3 shows a 765-kV deviation tower located less than 50 yards from a new two-story home.

The illustration provides a good indication of the size of these towers. The footprint for towers along straight segments is smaller because the balanced conductor load reduces the bending moment that must be supported at the foundations.



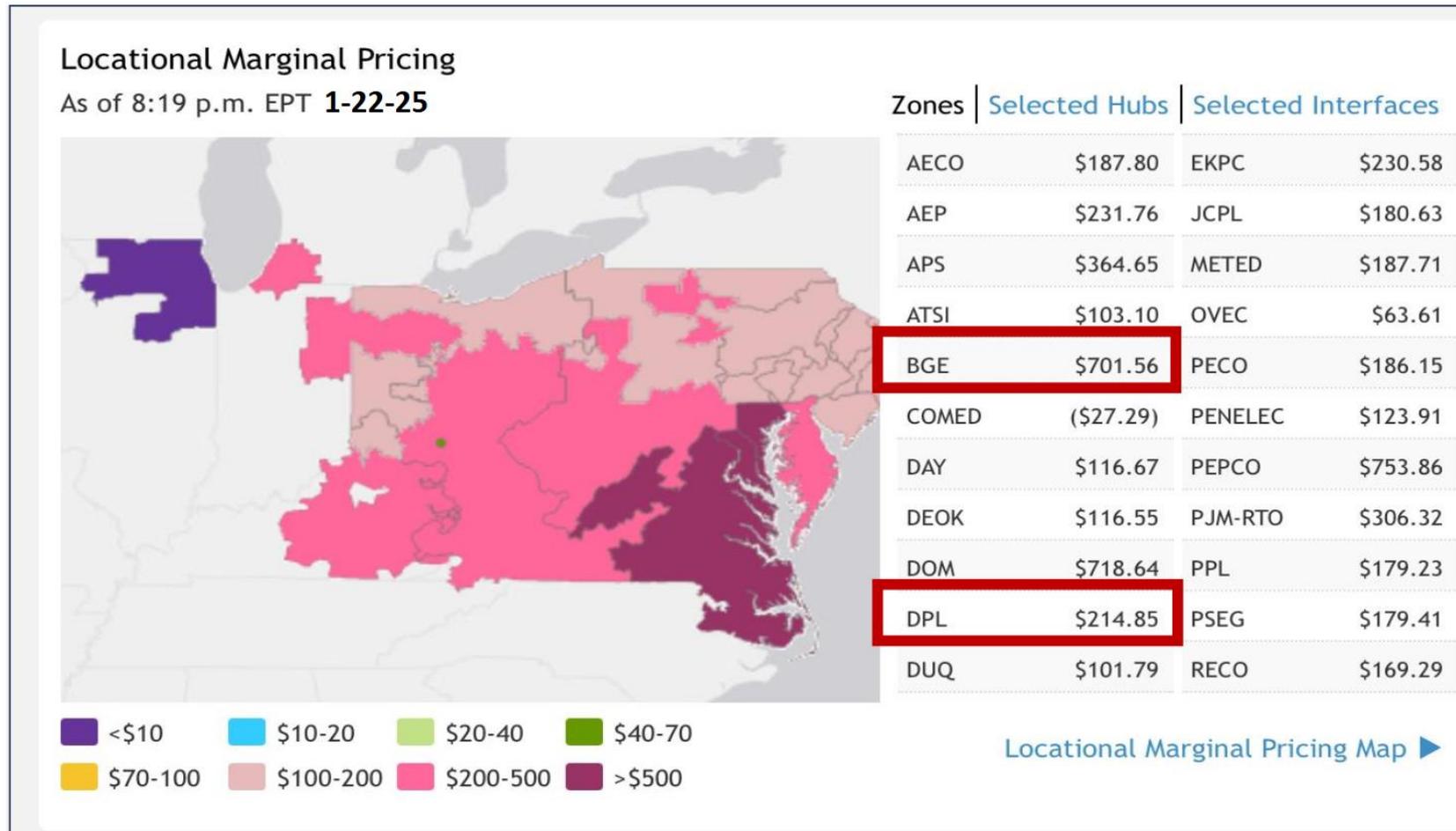
Figure 3 – Deviation Tower in a Residential Neighborhood

765kV Self-supporting Lattice tower

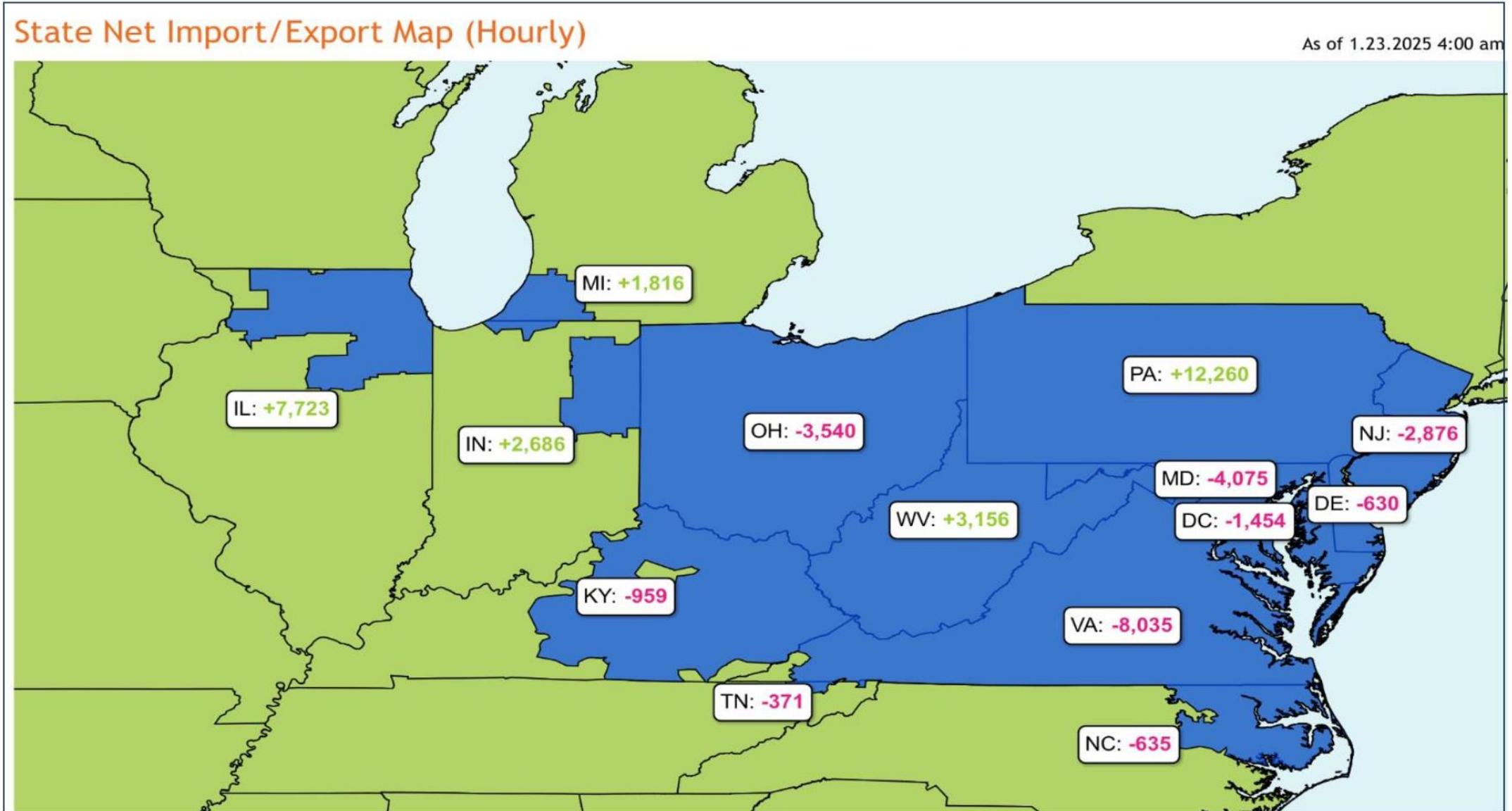
Locational Marginal Pricing - LMP is the price of delivering the next megawatt (MW) of electricity to a specific location or zone on the grid, like the BGE Zone or the Delmarva Zone

Constrained local MD supply and high electricity demand on January 22, 2025, led to the LMP price of \$701.56 for the next MW in the BGE zone.

Increasing MD supply by allowing natural gas generation will prevent this type of escalating pricing



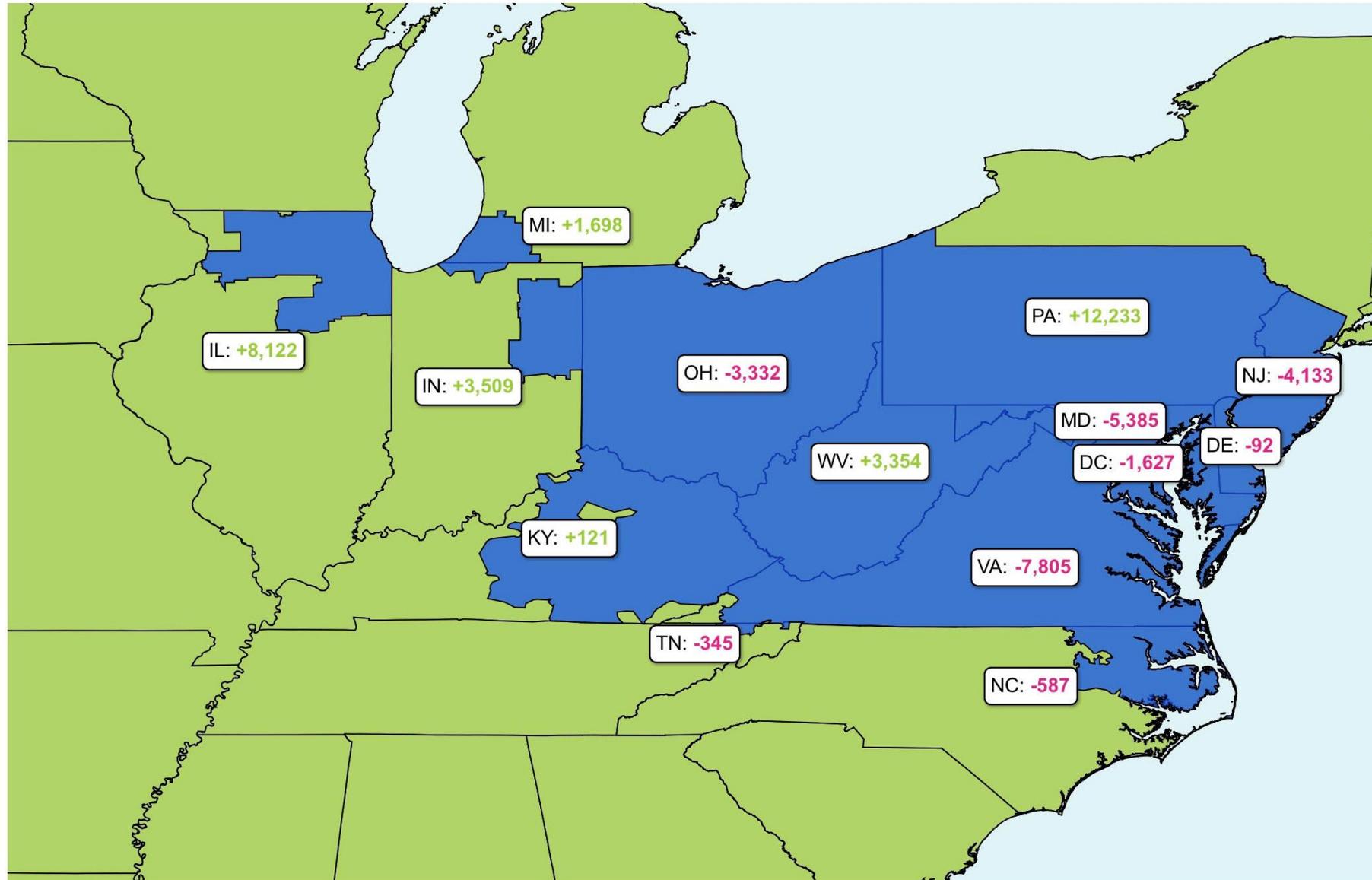
Maryland currently imports 40% - between 3,000 MWs to 5,000+ MWs hourly from other states - mostly Pennsylvania.
How much will Maryland import when all 5 of the PJM approved transmission extension cords are built?



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State Net Import/Export Map (Hourly)

As of 1.20.2025 6:00 pm E



MARYLAND NEEDS TO BE ENERGY INDEPENDENT

- Increased supply lowers electricity prices
- MD needs 24-7 thermal generation
- Prevents volatility in electricity prices
- Supports manufacturing growth
- Reduces vulnerability of transmission from weather events
- Supports data center growth
- Reduces burden on ratepayers

SUPPORT MARYLAND SB 643 WITH A FAVORABLE REPORT

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